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B8T

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(54) Improvements in or relating to containers and closures therefor

(57) A tamper-indicating package comprises an open-mouth container having circumferentially spaced projections (24) extending radially outwardly adjacent the open end thereof, each projection defining a notch (30) facing downwardly; and a closure (21) having circumferentially spaced locking lugs (37) adapted to engage the notches (30). A tamper-indicating member (41) comprises an annular ring having portions extending between the lower edge of the skirt (33) of the closure (21) and a portion (39) of the container, and whilst in place limits axial movement of the closure relative to the container. The closure (21) can be applied to the container when the member (41) is in position through rotation of the closure causing the lugs (37) to engage inclined surfaces (26) which flex the skirt (33) of the closure outwardly to thereby direct the lugs (37) into engagement with the notches (30).

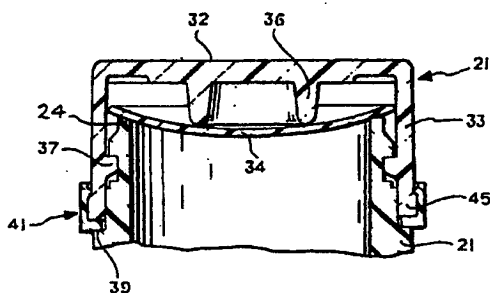


FIG. 2

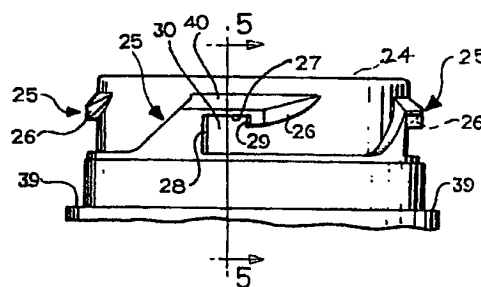


FIG. 3

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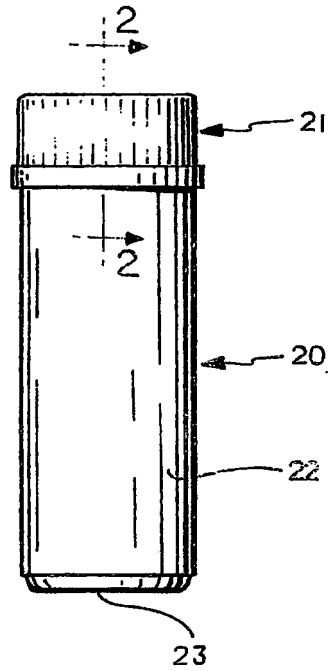


FIG. 1

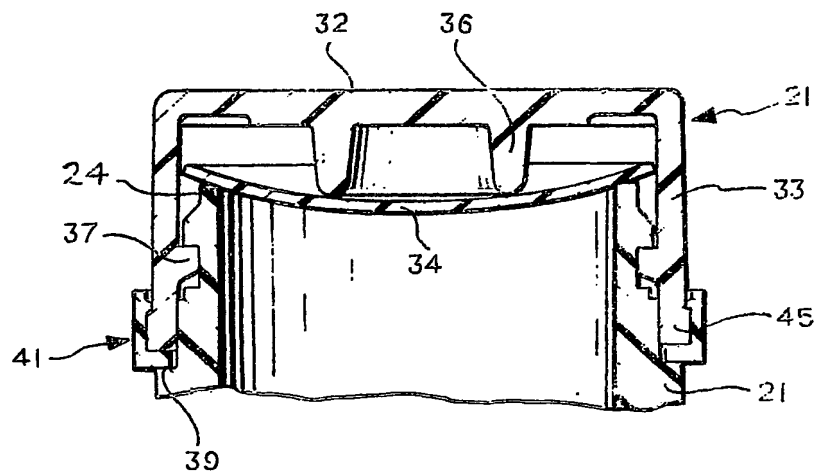


FIG. 2

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FIG. 3

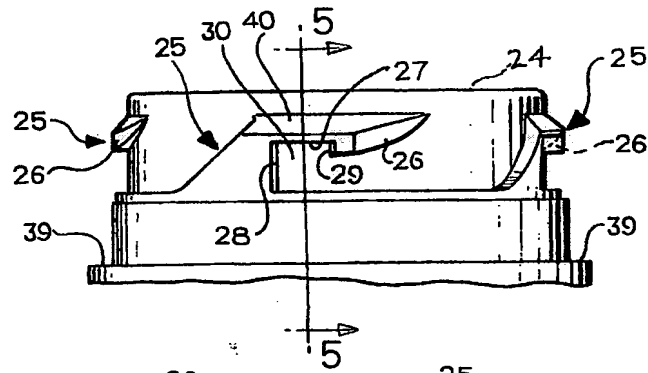


FIG. 4

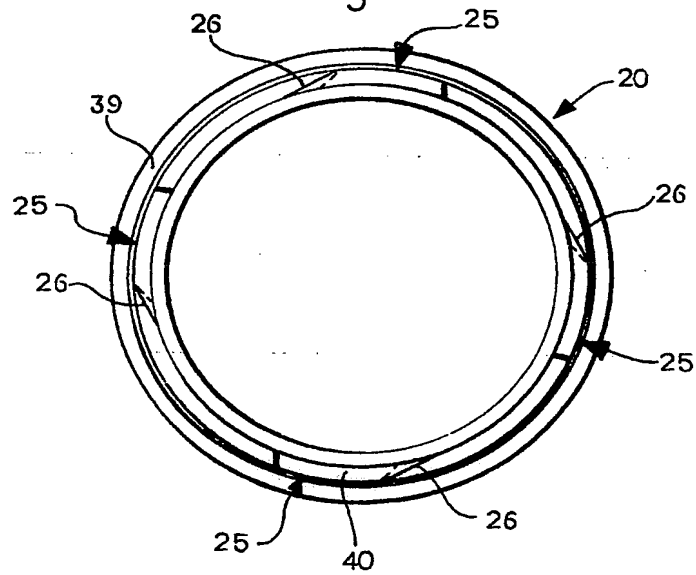
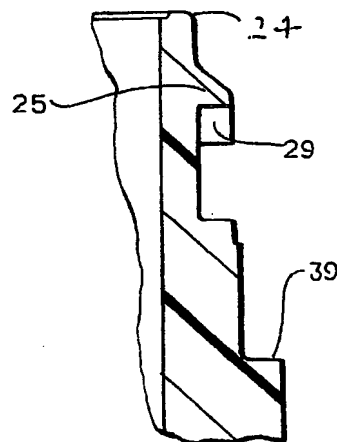


FIG. 5



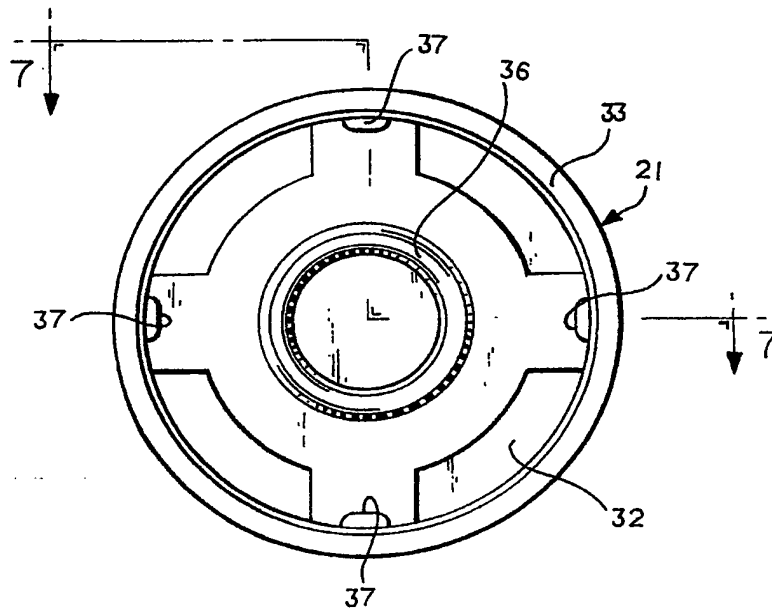


FIG. 6

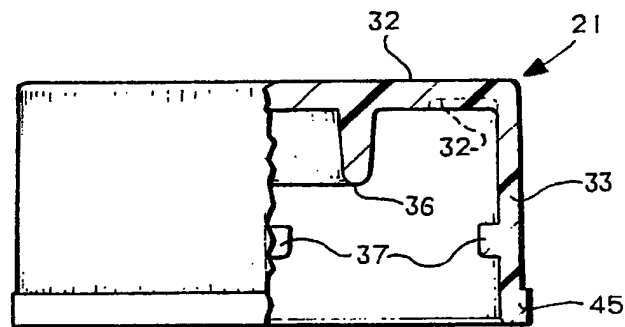


FIG. 7

FIG. 8

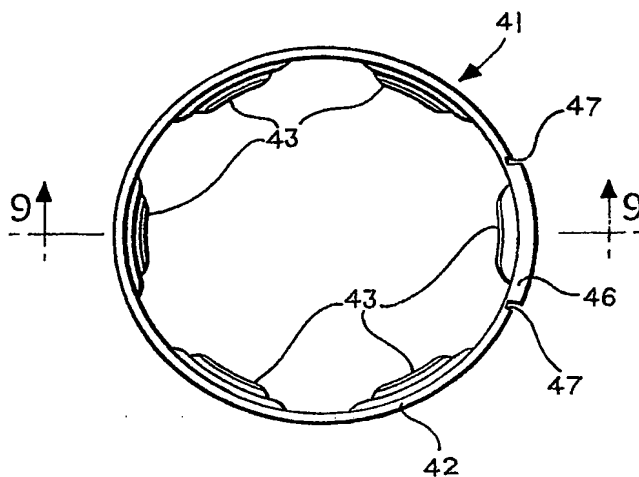


FIG. 9

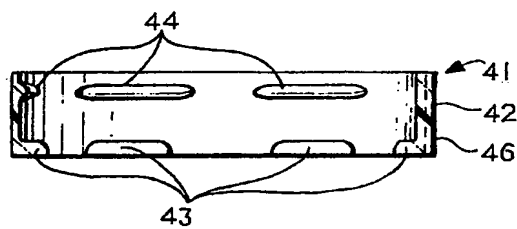


FIG. 10

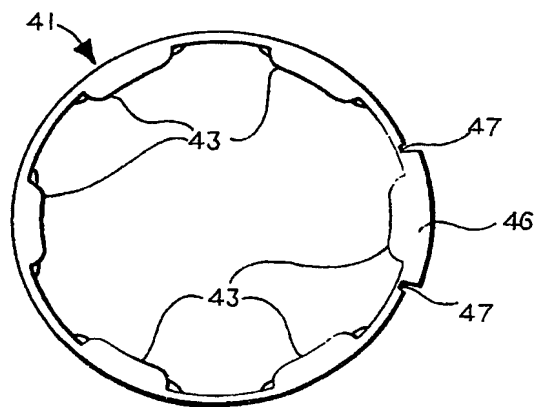


FIG. 11

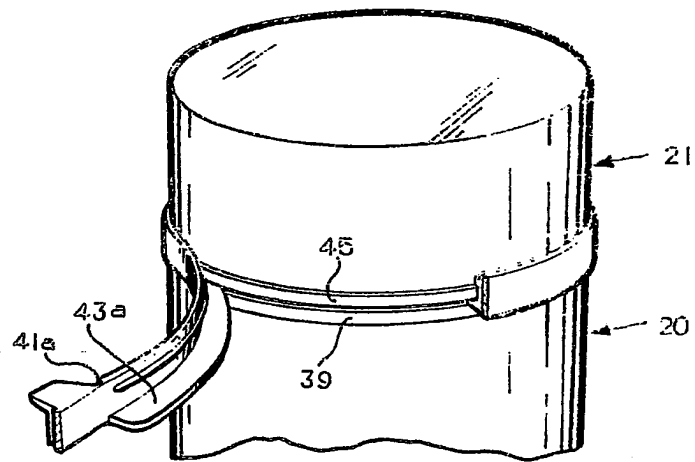
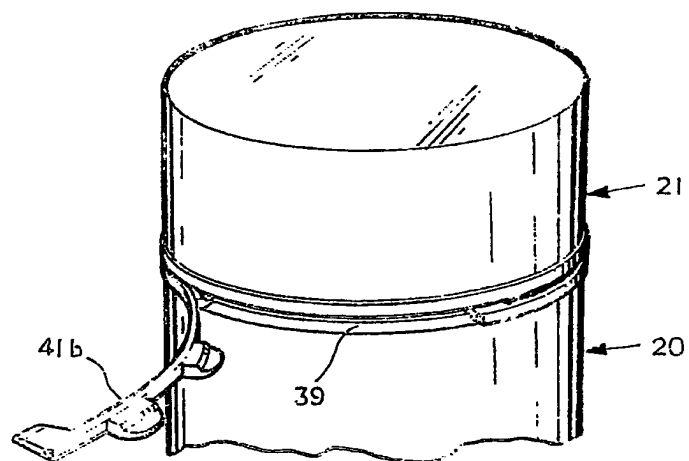


FIG. 12



SPECIFICATION

Improvements in or relating to containers and closures therefor

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The present invention relates to packages and particularly to containers and closures therefor.

- 10 It has been recognized that packages for medicinal and other materials should preferably be resistant to removal of their contents by children. In one child-resistant package shown in our United Kingdom Patent Specification No. 1,594,845 the package comprises
- 15 a cylindrical plastics body which has circumferentially spaced radially extending projections on the upper end thereof which have downwardly facing notches therein. The closure associated with the container comprises a
- 20 one-piece plastics body having a top panel and a depending annular skirt with circumferentially spaced lugs extending radially inwardly for engagement with the notches. The closure includes a one-piece liner which
- 25 serves as a spring between the closure and the container to bias the closure lugs into engagement with the projections on the container.

- In connection with such closures, an inner
- 30 seal may be provided over the upper end of the container so that upon removal of the closure, it can be readily ascertained whether the contents of the container have been tampered with. However, the integrity of such a
- 35 seal cannot be ascertained until the closure is removed.

- There is therefore a need for a child-resistant package which includes a tamper-indicating device on the closure which provides a
- 40 visual indication that the contents are intact and which must be removed before the closure can be actuated and removed from the container.

- According to one aspect of the present invention a child-resistant package comprises
- 45 an open-mouth container having a body with a plurality of circumferentially spaced projections extending radially outwardly adjacent the open end thereof, each projection having a
- 50 downwardly facing locking notch, a closure having a top panel and an annular skirt depending from the periphery of the top panel, a plurality of radially inwardly extending and circumferentially spaced locking lugs on the
- 55 inner surface of said skirt, each locking lug being adapted to engage a locking notch of a projection on the container, means yieldingly urging the closure upwardly to cause each lug to remain in engagement with the respective
- 60 notch when the closure is on the container, and a tamper-indicating member comprising an annular ring having portions extending radially between the lower edge of the skirt of the closure and portion of the container and
- 65 operable to normally limit axial movement of

the closure relatively to the container, said container including for each of said projections a surface extending from the body of the container to a position adjacent the notch and being downwardly and outwardly inclined

70 such that the closure can be applied to the container when the tamper-indicating member is in position through rotation of the closure causing a lug on the closure to engage and

75 move on the inclined surface and flex the skirt of the closure outwardly to thereby direct the lug into engagement with the locking notch of that projection.

- According to another aspect of the present invention, a container for use in a child-resistant package is an open-mouth container having a body with a plurality of circumferentially spaced projections extending radially
- 80 outwardly adjacent the open end thereof, each projection defining a downwardly facing locking notch, said container including for each of said projections a surface extending from the body of the container to a position adjacent
- 85 the notch and being downwardly and outwardly inclined such that a closure can be applied to the container when a tamper-indicating member is in position through rotation of the closure causing a lug in the closure to
- 90 engage the inclined surface and flex a skirt of the closure outwardly to thereby direct the lug into engagement with the locking notch of that projection.

- According to a further aspect of the present invention a child-resistant package comprises
- 100 a container, a closure having a peripheral skirt, interengaging means between said closure and said container operable upon relative axial movement between said closure and container to engage and disengage said closure and container, and a tamper-indicating
- 105 member comprising an annular ring having portions extending between the lower edge of the skirt portion of said closure and a portion of the container and operable to normally limit axial movement of the closure.

- In a package embodying the present invention, a tamper-indicating ring is provided that has portions that extend between the lower edge of the skirt portion of the closure member and the container to limit axial movement
- 115 of the closure member. The ring offers a visual indication that the contents have not been tampered with and the ring must be removed before the closure can be removed.
- 120 The container includes a specially designed inclined surface provided with dual slopes. One slope extends radially outwardly in a circumferential direction and the other slope extends downwardly and radially inwardly and terminates in a locking notch. The closure can
- 125 be applied to the container when the tamper-indicating member is in position through rotation of the closure causing each lug on the closure to engage an inclined surface and flex
- 130 the skirt of the closure outwardly to thereby

direct each lug into engagement with a locking notch.

The invention will be further described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

5 *Figure 1* is an elevational view of a child-resistant package according to a first embodiment of the invention,

10 *Figure 2* is a fragmentary vertical sectional view of the package of Fig. 1 to a larger scale,

Figure 3 is a fragmentary part sectional elevational view of the container forming part of the child-resistant package of Fig. 1,

15 *Figure 4* is a plan view of the container to a larger scale,

Figure 5 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along the line 5-5 in Fig. 4,

20 *Figure 6* is a bottom plan view of the closure forming part of the package of Fig. 1,

Figure 7 is a fragmentary sectional view along the line 7-7 in Fig. 6 to a larger scale,

Figure 8 is a top plan view of a tamper-indicating band of the package of Fig. 1,

25 *Figure 9* is a fragmentary sectional view along the line 9-9 in Fig. 8 to a larger scale,

Figure 10 is a bottom plan view of the tamper-indicating band,

30 *Figure 11* is a perspective view of a modified form of child resistant package during opening of the package, and

Figure 12 is a perspective view of another modified form of child resistant package during opening of the package.

35 Referring to Figs. 1 to 7, a child-resistant package embodying the present invention includes a container 20 and a closure 21. The container 20 is shown as being cylindrical and having a side wall 22 and bottom wall 23 with an open upper end or mouth defining a rim 24. The container 20 is provided with a plurality of circumferentially spaced, radially extending projections 25 formed on the upper end of the outer surface of the wall 22. Each projection 25 includes a tapered cam surface 26, and a radial surface 27 and axial surfaces 28, 29 to define a notch 30 that faces downwardly. Cam surfaces 26 have dual slopes. One slope extends radially outwardly in a circumferential direction and the other slope extends downwardly and radially outwardly and terminates at the locking notch 30.

50 Referring to Figs. 7 and 8, the closure 21 includes a top panel 32 and an annular peripheral wall or skirt 33. As shown in Fig. 2, a liner in the form of a disc 34 of plastics such as polyethylene is interposed between the closure and the container to seal the end of the container.

60 Disc 34 also acts as a spring urging the central portion of disc 34 against an annular rib 36 on the closure 21.

The closure 21 is also formed with a plurality of inwardly extending rectangular locking

70 lugs 37 circumferentially spaced about the inner surface of the wall 32 and adapted to engage the notches 30 on the projections 25 on the container as presently described. The container and closure are preferably made of organic plastics material.

75 In normal operation, in order to engage the closure 21 with the container 20, the closure 21 is brought into position adjacent the upper end of the container so that the locking lugs 37 are between the projections 25. The closure 21 is then rotated so that the locking lugs 37 slide along the inclined or camming surfaces 26 of the projections 25 and move axially downwardly until the locking lugs 36 snap up and engage the notches 30.

80 In order to remove the closure 21 from the container 20, an axial downward force is applied to the closure 21 against the spring action provided by the disc 34, and the closure 21 is rotated in the opposite direction to disengage the locking lugs 37 from the projections 25.

85 Referring to Figs. 3 to 5, the container 20 is provided with an annular shoulder 39 beneath the projections 25. In addition, each projection 25 is provided with an upper surface 40 that tapers downwardly and radially outwardly.

90 Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, a tamper-indicating member 41, preferably made of plastics such as high density polyethylene, is provided about the lower end of the closure. The member 41 is more clearly illustrated in Figs. 8 to 10 and comprises an annular wall 42 and a plurality of projections 43 extending radially inwardly from the inner surface of the wall 42 between the lower end of the skirt portion 33 of the closure 21 and shoulder 39 on the container 20. Shoulder 39 is positioned such that there is sufficient space between the lower end of the skirt 33 and the shoulder 39 for the projections 43.

95 Tamper-indicating 41 includes circumferentially spaced arcuate beads 44 on the inner surface of the wall 42 that snap over a small flange 45 on the skirt 33 of the closure 21 to retain the ring 41 on the closure during handling and application to the container 20. 100 The vertical distance between beads 44 and the projections 43 is substantially equal to the height of the flange 45 so that the ring 41 is held tightly on the closure. After a container 20 has been filled, the closure 21 with the tamper-indicating ring 41 thereon is applied to the container 20. However, the closure 21 cannot be applied in the conventional fashion due to the presence of the ring 41. Accordingly, the closure 21 is applied by rotation in a clockwise direction relative to the container whereby the lugs 37 engage and slide circumferentially on the cam surface 26 flexing the skirt 33 of the closure outwardly until the lugs 37 snap past the surface 29 and into notches 30. 110 115 120 125 130

With the closure 21 and tamper-indicating ring 41 in position, the projections 43 extend between the skirt 33 of the closure 21 and the shoulder 39 on the container 20 and normally limit axial movement of the closure. Any effort to move the closure 21 axially to disengage the lugs 37 is prevented by the projections 43. Accordingly, the presence of the tamper-indicating ring 41 provides a visual indication that the package has not been tampered with.

In order to remove the closure, the tamper-indicating ring 41 must first be removed. To facilitate this, a thickened portion 46 is provided which is grasped to tear the band. To further facilitate the tearing, axial grooves 47 on the band define weakened lines.

It can thus be seen that there has been provided a tamper-indicating device which will effectively prevent opening of the package and must first be removed. The presence of the tamper-indicating device provides visual indication that the child resistant package has not been tampered with.

Although the invention has been described in connection with a child resistant package wherein the spring means which urges the closure upwardly relative to the container is provided by a fitment, the invention can be applied to child-resistant packages of the type in which the closure is yieldingly urged away from the container to hold the lugs in engagement with the notches by an integral spring forming part of the closure. The invention is also applicable to a child-resistant package which includes a fitment having a sealing portion engaging the rim of the container, a plug portion engaging the inner surface of the shoulder of the container and providing a spring yieldingly urging the closure away from the container as shown in our United Kingdom Patent Specification No. 1,594,845.

In the form of the invention shown in Fig. 11, the portion of the tamper-indicating band 41a which projects between the closure and shoulder 39 on the container comprises a continuous annular ring 43a extending radially inwardly.

In the form of the invention shown in Fig. 12, the tamper-indicating member 41b is formed without an annular wall. This form of tamper-indicating member must be placed on the container before the closure is applied to the container.

CLAIMS

1. A child-resistant package comprising an open-mouth container having a body with a plurality of circumferentially spaced projections extending radially outwardly adjacent the open end thereof, each projection having a downwardly facing locking notch, a closure having a top panel and an annular skirt depending from the periphery of the top panel, a plurality of radially inwardly extending and

circumferentially spaced locking lugs on the inner surface of said skirt, each locking lug being adapted to engage a locking notch of a projection on the container, means yieldingly urging the closure upwardly to cause each lug to remain in engagement with respective notch when the closure is on the container, and a tamper-indicating member comprising an annular ring having portions extending radially between the lower edge of the skirt of the closure and a portion of the container and operable to normally limit axial movement of the closure relatively to the container, said container including for each of said projections a surface extending from the body of the container to a position adjacent the notch and being downwardly and outwardly inclined such that the closure can be applied to the container when the tamper-indicating member is in position through rotation of the closure causing a lug on the closure to engage and move on the inclined surface and flex the skirt of the closure outwardly to thereby direct the lug into engagement with the locking notch of that projection.

2. A child-resistant package as claimed in claim 1, in which said tamper-indicating member is mounted on said container.

3. The child resistant package claimed in claim 1, wherein said tamper-indicating member is mounted on the closure.

4. A child resistant package as claimed in claim 1 or 3, in which said ring of said tamper-indicating member surrounds said skirt portion of said closure.

5. A child resistant package as claimed in claim 4, in which said radially extending portions extend from the lower edge of said ring.

6. A child resistant package as claimed in claim 5, in which said radial portions are circumferentially spaced.

7. A child resistant package as claimed in claim 6, in which said radial portions are equally spaced.

8. A child resistant package as claimed in any of claims 1, 3 to 7, in which said annular ring of the tamper-indicating member includes an annular bead, said skirt of said closure including an annular rib for retaining said ring on said skirt.

9. A child resistant package as claimed in claim 8, in which the lower end of the skirt of the closure normally engages the radial portions of said ring when said ring is in position on said closure.

10. A child resistant package as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9, in which said tamper-indicating ring includes a weakened line to facilitate removal.

11. A child resistant package as claimed in claim 10, in which said tamper-indicating ring includes a thickened portion for grasping the ring to facilitate removal.

12. A child resistant package as claimed in claim 11, in which said thickened portion

extends radially.

13. A child resistant package as claimed in any of claims 1, 3 to 12, wherein said portions extending from said tamper-indicating member comprise a solid ring portion extending between the lower edge of the skirt of the closure and a portion of the container and operable to normally prevent axial movement of the closure.

14. A child resistant package as claimed in claim 1 or 2, in which said tamper-indicating member comprises a ring underlying said skirt portion of said outer closure.

15. A child resistant package as claimed in any of claims 1 to 14, in which said inclined surface on said container has a dual slope, one said slope extending radially outwardly in a circumferential direction and the other slope extending downwardly and radially inwardly.

16. A container for use in a child-resistant package, which container is an open-mouth container having a body with a plurality of circumferentially spaced projections extending radially outwardly adjacent the open end thereof, each projection defining a downwardly facing locking notch, said container including for each of said projections a surface extending from the body of the container to a position adjacent the notch and being downwardly and outwardly inclined such that a closure can be applied to the container when a tamper-indicating member is in position through rotation of the closure causing a lug on the closure to engage the inclined surface and flex a skirt of the closure outwardly to thereby direct the lug into engagement with the locking notch of that projection.

17. A container as claimed in claim 16, in which said inclined surface on said container has a dual slope, one said slope extending radially outwardly in a circumferential direction and the other slope extending downwardly and radially inwardly.

18. A container as claimed in claim 16, including a tamper-indicating member comprising an annular ring having portions adapted to extend between the lower edge of the skirt of a closure and a portion of the container and operable to normally prevent axial movement of the closure.

19. A child-resistant package comprising a container, a closure having a peripheral skirt, interengaging means between said closure and said container operable upon relative axial movement between said closure and container to engage and disengage said closure and container, and a tamper-indicating member comprising an annular ring having portions extending between the lower edge of the skirt portion of said closure and a portion of the container and operable to normally limit axial movement of the closure.

20. A child-resistant package as claimed in claim 19, in which said tamper-indicating

ring includes a weakened line to facilitate removal.

21. A child-resistant package as claimed in claim 19 or 20, in which said tamper-indicating ring includes a thickened portion for grasping the ring to facilitate removal.

22. A child resistant package as claimed in claim 21, in which said thickened portion extends radially.

23. A child-resistant package, constructed and arranged and adapted to operate substantially as hereinbefore particularly described with reference to and as illustrated in Figs. 1 to 10 of the accompanying drawings.

24. A child-resistant package as claimed in claim 23, including a modification constructed and arranged and adapted to operate substantially as hereinbefore particularly described with reference to and as illustrated in Fig. 11 or Fig. 12 of the accompanying drawings.

25. A container for use in child-resistant package, constructed and arranged and adapted to operate substantially as hereinbefore particularly described with reference to and as illustrated in Figs. 1 to 7 of the accompanying drawings.

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